

Woodbury City Update

February 2020 • Volume 21, No. 2

INSIDE

Answers to your questions about Woodbury's drinking water.



Summer jobs available with the city

Are you seeking summer employment opportunities lasting from three to six months?

The City of Woodbury is now taking applications for summer seasonal positions for our maintenance, golf course and recreation programs.

Positions available include:

- Pee wee sports coach
- Puppet wagon puppeteers
- Playground program leaders
- Camp Carver leaders
- Lifeguard
- HealthEast Sports Center summer outdoor fields attendant
- Tennis instructor
- Maintenance in the Parks and Forestry Divisions with responsibilities including athletic fields, forestry, horticulture, irrigation, building cleaning, trash/recycling duties and more (three-month and six-month positions available).
- Maintenance in the Utilities Division with responsibilities including hydrant flushing, gate valve exercising, gate valve repair and lawn care.

Time can be used toward earning water or sewer licensing (three-month and six-month positions available).

- Maintenance in the Streets Division with duties including street and stormwater maintenance, signs and traffic control maintenance (three-month and six-month positions available)

There are also several positions available at Eagle Valley Golf Course, including:

- Golf course maintenance worker
- Food and beverage attendant (must be at least 18 years old)
- Starter/ranger
- Outside service

The minimum age requirement is 16 for golf course and recreation positions. Applicants for the Utilities, Streets and Parks Maintenance positions must be at least 18 years old.

Interested individuals should apply at woodburymn.gov/employment. Email hr@woodburymn.gov or call 651-714-3500 with questions.



Presidential primary election is March 3

State's first presidential primary since 1992

Voters will be able to cast ballots in the presidential primary election Tuesday, March 3.

"This year's presidential primary was created through legislation in 2016," said Woodbury City Clerk Kim Blaese. "Voters may just be learning about it because it has not occurred in Minnesota since 1992."

What is on the ballot?

Each major political party has a separate ballot for this election and voters must choose which major party's ballot they want. According to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office, a voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential nomination primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How someone voted on the ballot will be confidential.

By law, only major parties, of which Minnesota has four, can participate in the nomination primary. The Democratic-Farmer-Labor and Republican parties are the two participating in this election.

Where do I vote?

To find your polling place for the March 3 primary, visit the Secretary of State's website at pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us.

Absentee voting

Absentee voting for the presidential primary began Jan. 17. In-person absentee voting is taking place in the lower level of Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place, in Woodbury through Monday, March 2, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Voting will also be available on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Motorists should park on the east side of Central Park. Additional information and absentee voting locations across Washington County is available at www.co.washington.mn.us.

What happens after the primary?

After the primary, party delegates will go to a national convention where a final candidate is nominated. A state's delegates must use the presidential primary results to guide their vote on the first ballot at this convention.

The presidential primary replaces the presidential straw poll that was previously held during the precinct caucus. Precinct caucuses will take place Feb. 25 to conduct other party business.

The statewide primary election will take place Aug. 11. Candidates for U.S. Senate and other local races will potentially be on this ballot. The general election is Nov. 3.

For more information, contact the Washington County Elections Division at 651-430-6790.

Council Perspective

By Mayor Anne Burt

City begins work on temporary water treatment facility

Recently, you have likely heard some stories about Woodbury's water quality. While misinformation has been posted on social media, it is critical you have accurate information directly from us – the city operating the water system.

At our Jan. 8 City Council meeting, we approved construction of a temporary water treatment facility to treat three of the city's six water wells currently exceeding water quality standards and guidelines for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The 3M Company made PFAS at its Cottage Grove facility from the late 1940s until 2002. PFAS wastes were disposed of at multiple sites in Washington County. The source of the PFAS in Woodbury's groundwater has been identified as these disposal sites.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has established health standards for PFAS and has issued health risk advisories on six of Woodbury's 19 wells since 2017, with additional wells trending toward exceeding PFAS standards in the future.

The city has taken all six of these wells out of service, and water delivered to customers continues to meet all state and federal water quality standards and guidelines.

3M and the State of Minnesota are funding the construction of the temporary water treatment facility, which will be located in the Tamarack Well Field north of Valley Creek Road and east of Tower Drive. City staff is working with its consultants and the State of Minnesota to design and construct the facility.

It is critical the city implement temporary treatment options as soon as possible to allow the city to meet water demand on peak use days this

summer. If a temporary treatment option cannot be implemented this summer, increased water restrictions may be needed to ensure the water system has enough pressure to meet demand. We all need to do our part this summer to use water as efficiently as possible.

Our highest priority is the health and safety of our residents. We will continue to work with the MDH to monitor the water while constructing the temporary water treatment facility. We will proceed cautiously and work closely with public health officials in protecting and informing residents.

The temporary water treatment facility is expected to be in operation until a long-term water treatment solution can be implemented, estimated to be around 2025. The State of Minnesota continues to study long-term treatment options for several communities in the east metro area and is anticipated to share its recommendations with the cities in spring 2020. Funds for long-term water treatment solutions in the east metro are expected to be available from approximately \$700 million received through a settlement the state received from 3M in 2018.

We have been sharing information with residents and busi-

nesses about PFAS in the water since 2007 and we will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve. Inserted in this newsletter is a list of frequently asked questions city staff receives about PFAS and the city's water quality. I strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to read the insert and inform yourself with the most updated information the city has on this topic.

For specific questions about the city's water system, contact Jim Westerman, utility manager, at jim.westerman@woodburymn.gov or 651-714-3720.

I look forward to the successful construction of the temporary water treatment facility and working with the State of Minnesota to implement long-term treatment solutions to ensure a clean water supply in Woodbury for generations to come.

Learn more

For additional information about PFAS, visit:

- woodburymn.gov/pfas
- health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/hazardous/topics/pfas.html
- 3msettlement.state.mn.us

The Woodbury newsletter is published 10 times per year by the City of Woodbury and mailed to all residents and businesses. Send comments to: Woodbury City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek Road, Woodbury, MN 55125-3330. Phone: 651-714-3500. Email: jason.egerstrom@woodburymn.gov.

Mayor: Anne Burt. Council Members: Andrea Date, Steve Morris, Jennifer Santini and Amy Scoggins. City Administrator: Clint Gridley. Communications Manager: Jason Egerstrom.

The City of Woodbury is subject to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. In accordance with the act, the Woodbury newsletter is available in other formats. Call Jason Egerstrom, 651-714-3500; TDD: 651-714-3568.

2020 Census begins mid-March

Residents are encouraged to participate

In mid-March, households will begin receiving official mail from the U.S. Census Bureau with detailed information about how to respond to the decennial 2020 Census. Responses can be given online, by phone, or by mail. You don't need to wait until April 1, the official Census Day, to respond.

The 2020 survey asks a variety of questions including, but not limited to, information about your name, sex, age, date of birth, race, and whether you own or rent your home, and takes about 10 minutes to complete.

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. The law ensures that your private information is never published and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

Why is your response important?

In the first place, census data determines the number of seats that Minnesota will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, information collected through the census will help determine how billions of dollars in federal funding flow into states and communities each year.

"Woodbury has received funding for housing, public safety programs, park and recreation capital projects and federal stimulus projects based on its population," said City Administrator Clint Gridley. "So it's important to have a complete and accurate count of all our residents in the census."

The U.S. has counted its population every 10 years since 1790 through the census. Participation in the census is required by federal law.

Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person. More detailed information previously collected through the census will be asked of a small percentage of the population through the annual American Community Survey.

To learn more about the survey, visit census.gov. For more information about the 2020 U.S. Census, go to 2020census.gov.

Reduce water use through water efficiency incentive programs

For the fourth consecutive year, the City of Woodbury is aiming to reduce summer water use by offering a discounted smart irrigation program to residents.

Woodbury homeowners can join the waiting list to purchase a WaterSense-certified smart irrigation controller through the city at a discounted rate of \$35 (retail value is \$230).

This year, with six of the city's 19 wells out of service with Minnesota Department of Health Risk Advisories due to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), it may be more important than ever for residents to take advantage of the program.

"While having six wells out of service is not a significant operational issue during the winter, it will be a challenge to meet peak water use demand in the summer months without them," explained Jim Westerman, Woodbury utility manager. "If the new temporary treatment facility is not operational this summer, we are going to need everyone to do their part to efficiently use water and the smart irrigation controller program is a great way to do that."

Smart irrigation controllers can reduce water use by at least 20 percent and up to 45 percent without changing a

lawn's appearance by watering only when it has not rained enough. The controllers connect through WiFi to access recent rainfall information and forecasts before turning on the irrigation system, provided the home's WiFi signal reaches the controller (often located in the garage).

Research done by the University of Minnesota has concluded that a smart controller can reduce a home's water use by 30 to 50 thousand gallons of water each year. These controllers can be operated through a smartphone or computer, and can be programmed with smart-home technology like Amazon Alexa or Google Home.

In the last four years, more than 2,100 Woodbury residents purchased smart controllers through this program. Join your neighbors by visiting woodburymn.gov/smartirrigation, and get on the waiting list for the 2020 program. Residents on the list will be notified when the program opens in March.

Commercial and association-managed irrigation systems

Commercial and homeowners association properties located within Woodbury with irrigation meters (using city water) are eligible to



receive funding assistance for improvements that reduce water use.

Approved projects will receive 50 percent funding assistance up to \$8,000 for one or more improvements such as:

- Upgrading your controller to be WaterSense certified
- Adding weather-sensing technology
- Replacing sprinkler heads with high efficiency models
- Completing an audit

Property managers and board members should work with their irrigation contractor to decide what efficiency improvements are right for their system.

Over the last three years, 55 properties have participated in this program and have received approximately \$211,000 in city funding. These properties are helping to save millions of gallons of water per year.

This is the second to last year that



the program will be running, so apply while there's still time. Those interested in participating in the 2020 program must apply by Friday, May 15, at woodburymn.gov/commercialirrigation.

Projects must receive city approval before hiring a contractor or spending funds. Improvements made in previous years are not eligible. Project applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified by June 1.

Questions about irrigation programs? Contact the Engineering Department at 651-714-3593 or water@woodburymn.gov.

Please clean up after your pet!

Woodbury's expansive network of trails and parks are used year-round. Even during the coldest days, folks come out for a brisk jog or a hike through the snowy landscape. But unsightly messes left behind by those who don't pick up after their pet can detract from leisurely strolls, outdoor activities and are harmful to local water bodies.

As the snow melts and spring brings rain, water carries the bacteria from leftover pet waste to our wetlands, streams and lakes. Pet waste carries E. coli bacteria, which is a potentially dangerous microorganism.

City ordinances require pet owners to carry supplies for excrement removal

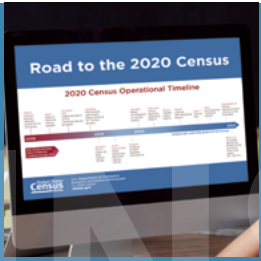
when walking a pet off their property. All messes on public property, including the off-leash dog park, or on the private property of others must be cleaned up. For the safety of pets and park users, pets must be leashed anytime they are off their owner's property. The city has received several complaints about unleashed dogs and pet feces left on public trails this winter.

"It's important pet owners adhere to the year-round ordinance and are respectful of others by cleaning up after their pets," said Parks and Recreation Director Michelle Okada. "This keeps our parks and trails enjoyable for everyone, and keeps harmful bacteria out of our bodies of water."



Persons who do not comply may be cited for violating city code and fined. Summaries of the animal control ordinances pertaining to pets are available at City Hall, 8301 Valley Creek

Road. Information also is available via the city's website at woodburymn.gov. Select "City Code" under "Your Government" and refer to chapter five.



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Postal Patron
Woodbury, MN

Mayor Burt will deliver State of the City presentation Feb. 20 at Central Park

Come meet Woodbury Mayor Anne Burt and listen to her State of the City presentation Thursday, Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m. in the amphitheater at Central Park, 8595 Central Park Place. The event is free and all are welcome to attend.

The presentation will feature updates about development, city projects and much more. Mayor Burt also will take questions from the audience at the end of her presentation.

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Fun times for the whole family at Central Park

Looking for some free family activities? Enjoy musical entertainment at Central Park!

A full line-up of musical acts are scheduled in the amphitheater through this spring:

- **River City Jazz Orchestra**,
big band jazz
Sunday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m.
- **Nancy Olson**, *folk*
Sunday, March 29, at 2 p.m.
- **Aspire Music Academy**,
show choir
Sunday, April 19, at 2 p.m.
- **Saint Ambrose Band**,
school band
Thursday, May 7, at 7 p.m.
- **South Washington County Band**,
community band
Sunday, May 17, at 2 p.m.

All concerts are free (no reservations required)!

Other upcoming Parks and Recreation events at Central Park:

Central Bark Pet Expo: Pet enthusiasts and local pet businesses can meet with a variety of organizations to learn about local pet opportunities. The free event will take place on Saturday, March 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. For safety reasons, no personal pets will be allowed at this event. Interested vendors should email centralpark@woodburymn.gov.

Family Bingo: Bring your family and get ready to call out "Bingo!" New this year, and sure to be fan favorites, are Pizza Bingo, Sunday, Jan. 12 and March 22, and Super Bowl Sundae Bingo, Sunday, Feb. 2. Classic



Sundae Bingo takes place Sunday, April 19. Each session will begin at 2 p.m. and will last about 90 minutes. Pre-registration is required and dates are filled on a first come, first served basis. All ages are welcome. The event will take place in the Valley Creek

Room B on the lower level of Central Park and costs \$5 per person. To register, visit woodburyrecreation.com or call Woodbury Parks and Recreation at 651-714-3583.

Woodbury Central Park is located at 8595 Central Park Place.